



NEWS RELEASE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Congressman John L. Mica, Ranking Republican

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***Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management
Hearing Statement***

"Recovery Act Project to Replace the Social Security Administration's National Computer Center"

The National Computer Center is critical to supporting all of SSA's functions, storing data and applications and processing billions of transactions annually. The NCC must be reliable and operational 24/7, 365 days a year.

Unfortunately, the facility that currently houses the NCC is aging and must be upgraded to meet the needs of new technology, redundancies, and the current requirements for data centers.

The Recovery Act included \$500 million for the replacement of the NCC and SSA has engaged GSA in locating, designing and building a new data center.

While the hearing today is focused on the NCC project, it is important to mention that the Recovery Act was touted as a bill critical to boosting the economy and creating jobs. Despite this stated purpose, real questions remain on how effective the Act has been in creating jobs.

For example, on October 30th, the Administration posted updated figures on the number of jobs created or saved on the Recovery.gov website. That figure, over 640,000, as I pointed out in a previous hearing, was subsequently called into serious question following investigations by news organizations, the GAO, and Members of Congress. Despite the clear inaccuracies of this data, this figure remains on the website, which is costing the taxpayer \$18 million.

In addition, earlier this month, a Republican report taking a closer look at 100 projects funded by the Recovery Act raised serious questions as to how much of the so-called stimulus is wasteful spending.

I remain very concerned about some of the projects funded by the Recovery Act and whether other priorities have replaced the primary goal of job creation.

With that said, I do believe that the project we are examining today is one that is critical for the American people. Millions of Americans and employers rely upon the proper functioning of the NCC everyday, and we know that the current NCC is nearing the end of its useful life.

Today, I believe the key issue in examining this project is ensuring that a new data center is built cost-effectively, quickly, and in a way that maximizes job creation.

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<http://republicans.transportation.house.gov>